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BORDERLAND SCIENCES
RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

- CONCERNING CARBON OR "VITIC" FORCE -

In vol. I, No.2 of Round Robin (March 1945), and also in RR.I- 3, we printed articles and data on this same subject. We think it is of sufficient practical importance and interest to justify calling attention to it a second time.

The following quotations are from The Dynamic Power of the Inner Mind, by Brian Brown; Doubleday, Page & Co., 1924. 315 pp. O.P. but occasionally obtainable. Beginning on page 264. Brian Brown quotes an unnamed "great Englsih scientist" as follows:

"There are at least three things which militate against a prolonged continuance of vigorous life. One is physical deterioration as evidences by .. arterio-sclerosis; another is the gradual failure of generation of nerve force; and the third a falling off in the production of secretions of certain glands. We have, then, to deal with deficiencies, deficient nerve force and it may be deficient insulation ... we require a means of generating nerve force. For years we have heard of a new force called Odic and Psychic, by Sergeant Cox and Sir William Crookes respectively. It has been associated in the minds of most people with the "occult", probably because no one has yet been able to demonstrate its nature or value, or even to evolve it."

Professor Baines Explanation of the Carbon or Vitic Force Discovered in Egypt:

(Brian Brown here quotes, under the above heading, paragraphs from The Origin and Problem of Life, by A.E. (Professor) Baines: (Dutton & Co.): as follows:

"My knowledge of a new force, which I have called Vitic, came about in a curious way. Years of residence in Egypt had created interest in Egyptology, which upon my return to England drew me not infrequently to the British Museum. . . When I noticed that the statue of one of the priests was shown holding a cylinder in each hand, my curiosity was aroused and I determined upon investigation. . . The reigning Pharaoh was similarly equipped . . . The most prominent statue, a painted limestone portrait, dates from about 3700 B.C., and the royal personage is shown holding a rod in each hand, much in the manner that a runner holds corks. In my belief these rods were symbolical, but of what? Surely not of power. The keynote of Egyptian character was sensuality perhaps; virility in greater probability. This was the conclusion to which I finally came. Inquiry of the authorities at the Museum elicited the astonishing fact that nothing was known of the purpose or meaning of the rods.

"Years of experiment followed in the effort to discover something which when held in the hand would beneficially affect the nervous system. Finally it was found, by accident, in carbon. Hard carbon, such as is used in arc lamps, will give out a certain amount of force which, experience has told us, is not to be distinguished from nerve force. But if the carbon is treated in such a manner as tocause a violent disturbance of its molecules, and then especially hardened, the force evolved by it is greatly augmented and the rod becomes a real source of power, so readily absorbed and stored by the unipolar ganglion cells that a five minutes' charge remains effective for at least 12 hours."

"If it were a liquid and were were compounding the elixir of life, it would be the first and most essential ingredient. In his studies in Electro-Pathology, Dr. White Robertson, writing of my hypothesis that an electric wave is not simple but compound, says: "That the second alternative is not far-fetched is suggested by the recent discovery of Baines that by a special hardening process applied to ordinary arc carbon, a "new force" has been found to reside in the altered carbon, which can be conveyed to and stored in the body for a period of several hours by simply holding these in the hand, with the result that subnormal galvanometric deflections are

enormously enhanced; and already we have been able to observe gratifying changes in cases of nervous break-down apparently by increasing the nerve charge through these new carbons. What this force is we do not yet know, nor is it known to the eminent physicists and physiologists to whom we have demonstrated it. It is not magnetic. And it differs from an electrical charge in that it is not readily diffused, but is, as registered by the galvanometer over a period of 12 hours, stored probably in the unipolar ganglia of the nervous system.

"In an article in the PRACTITIONER, in June, 1914 (Professor Baines continues), Dr. J.Horne Wilson wrote of this discovery of mine: "In this connection" (nerve deafness)" I may mention that a rod of carbon,which has its molecular condition altered in a similar way to that of iron when it is converted into a magnet, has a most remarkable effect on the body deflections. If held in the right hand it produces an off-scale positive deflection, and an off-scale negative if held in the left hand. If held in contact with the right side of the body for five or ten minutes it makes the hand to hand deflections strongly positive, and has exactly the opposite effect if held in the left side of the body. It has no direct influence on the terminals of the galvanometer. It evidently charges the body with a force akin to nerve energy,as it is retained for f a much longer period than electricity is.'

"In another article in the Medical Times the same author" (Dr.J.Horne) wrote of the carbon rods: 'This form of energy will, when suitably applied, raise the nerve currents to normal. The rod held in the right hand acts as a stimulant without any depressing after-effect, and in the left hand as a sedative. Under the stimulating influence the nervous system generally is benefitted; mental fatigue rapidly dis - appears, and morbid conditions such as neurasthenia, insomnia and feeble action of the heart readily yield to it.'

"'The second cylinder shown in the left hand of An-Kheft-Ka (continues Dr.Horne, quoted by Professor Baines) "'was probably of minor importance and was not of the nature of carbon, as that would have neutralized the charge. It was, I have little doubt, fashioned from magnetic iron ore. Magnetism applied to the left side of the body stimulates the heart action, but only so long as the body remains within the magnetic field. The properties of magnetic iron ore' (were known to the ancients).If two rods are held, the carbon in the right and a permanent magnet in the left hand, the effect is accentuated, but while the charge imparted by the carbon endures for some 12 hours, that exerted by the magnet ceases to be operative upon relinquishment.'"

All this looks like something of possible importance. As far as the step-up in galvanometer deflections is concerned, anyone can verify it for himself (No battery; use the Edison galvanometer that registers body resistence when fingers are placed on terminals; normal deflection should be 4-5 points.Immerse terminal electrodes in water, to avoid change in pressure of holding, perspiration etc.). The present writer experimented sufficiently to assure himself that the increased deflection was usually present - 12 or 13 persons out of 15. Only the firsttrial is significant, in each case, due to the retention of charge by the body. But we need, and have never obtained the following material:

"Studies in Electro-Pathology" by Dr.White Robertson (or closely similar title). Publisher and date not known.

"The Practitioner" for June 1914, containing the article by Dr.J. Horne Wilson.

"The Medical Times" for July 25, 1914.

"The Origin and Problem of Life" by Professor A.E.Baines.

These books and articles undoubtedly contain material necessary for any experimenter who wishes to investigate further. It is particularly important to know what process is used for the hardening of carbon rods, and where such hardened rods can be obtained. Nevertheless, the deflection can be noted when ordinary arc carbons are used. Mr. E.C.Krieger (2321 Rohs St.,Cincinnati, Ohio) informed us, about three years ago, that "hard gray carbon rods 1" in dia. x 1' long, can be obtained from

the National Carbon Co., Chicago. Also, that Sb, Bi, Cu, Pb, Si, Sn, Zn can be obtained from Belmont Smelting and Refining Works, Inc., 330 Belmont Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. Sb and Si probably only in powder or lump form. (This for anyone who may wish to experiment with other substances. . . . Mr. Krieger also remarked that "Vitic" in his opinion is a magnetic phenomenon, in view of recently reported proof of the existence of a "magnetic current" (by Felix Ehrenhaft). . . . Carbon in the form used is amorphous and diamagnetic, but intensive hardening would alter this condition in part.

It seems certain that the physiological and therapeutic effects attributed to "Vitic" should be investigated. So far as present information goes, it has all the appearance of an outlaw phenomenon, shelved because of no pigeonhole for it. In experimentation with the galvanometer, persons making the trials should not be told in advance of any possible effects; but in therapeutic use the effects could probably be greatly increased by suggestion, which of course would be entirely legitimate. Doctors who give sugar pills should gladly concur. . . . There can be no objection to the a priori assumption that carbon gives off an emanation of some kind (since everything else does, according to present belief). If this emanation is actually stored up in the nerve ganglia and resembles "nerve energy", the fact is of great importance.

We have set up this release for BSRA members, partly because of the interest aroused by our first publication about "Vitic", and because we continue to receive, from time to time, inquiries about the matter. The first problem is obviously to verify beyond question the statements of these earlier investigators, that the increased deflection is factual - and the experiments for this are by no means as easy to devise as one might think. But the reports were made by competent persons and should not be disregarded. Experiments should also be made with many other substances - and if a similar phenomenon is found the problem is merely widened.

Other inquiries: Dicyanin for Kilner screens: this may be had from the Chemical Sales Division of the Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester 4, N.Y. Price was formerly $20.00 per gram, $2.75 for 1/10 gr, sufficient for experiment. It is used in sensitizing plates for the extreme red, is sol. in rubbing alcohol. With cellulose acetate and acetone or nitrocellulose added, could be spread as a thin coat on glass to take take the place of the screen. But a glass used in spectacles is now in use, probably not now available in this country; these condition the eyes of the average person so that the aura can be seen without their aid. The glass cells of Kilner are difficult to make and unsatisfactory in many ways. Kilner's book is "The Human Atmosphere", published about 1920 by Keegan Paul, 68 Carter Lane, London E.C.4, Eng. 10/6.

Concerning the release entitled "Operation in Magic": BSRA Director MFL and BSR Assoc. V.G. advised that it be published in RR - which would have given it still more publicity. A number of comments have come in, from persons of scientific and occult attainments, expressing interest and approval. We have also received a few indignant protests over such 'preposterous nonsense'. Well, nearly all BSR Associates know that this is not merely a group of amateur scientists with their customary limitations. We cannot refuse to publish material merely because it is incredible and fantastic to "scientism" - and so fall into the trap which has blocked systematic study of the supernormal for the last 60 years or so. Neither do we wish to spend time on pure fiction and wholly unverifiable accounts. But opinions vary widely as to whether a given account falls into the latter category. We cannot possibly please everybody. As to the "Operation", I think it is certain that those who know the most about the "Borderland" will be the last to reject it, decisively and in toto; verification, however, is a matter of individual experiment (for which few are qualified) - and to some extent on attempts to photograph the materializing entities, now being undertaken. -- As to spiritism, let us once more say flatly that the tenets of survival and communication are accepted by the ML Publications and the BSRA Directors - and most BSR Associates, and that research work through a trance medium (unpaid) is constantly carried on. But we are not interested in direct propaganda for spiritism or spiritualism -- we are trying to 'go on from there'. -- Please be patient with us, everybody.

M.L. - for BSRA